

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 12th March 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	2,100	Pous 1287, B.S.
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
Fortnightly.				
3	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	31	
Weekly.				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	28th February 1881.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	11th March 1881.
8	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Ditto	.....	8th ditto.
9	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	1st ditto.
10	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	1st ditto.
11	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwān	296	
12	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	
13	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	4th ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	9th ditto.
15	"Medinī"	Midnapore	.....
16	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	
17	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
18	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	28th February 1881.
19	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....	27th ditto.
20	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	6th March 1881.
21	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakiniā, Rungpore	250	
22	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	
23	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	28th February 1881.
24	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	7th March 1881.
25	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	5th ditto.
26	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	28th February 1881.
27	"Tripurā Vārtāvaha"	Commillah	.....	5th March 1881.
Daily.				
28	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	4th to 8th March 1881.
29	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	3rd to 11th ditto.
30	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	7th to 12th ditto.
31	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	7th to 11th ditto.
32	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	.....	7th to 16th ditto.
33	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
Weekly.				
34	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	5th March 1881.
HINDI.				
Weekly.				
35	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	3rd ditto.
36	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	3rd ditto.
37	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	7th ditto.
38	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....	5th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
Weekly.				
39	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	4th ditto.
URDU.				
Weekly.				
40	"Tijarat-ul-Akhbār"	Ditto	.....
ASSAMESE.				
Monthly.				
41	"Assam Vilāsini"	Sibsagar	.....

POLITICAL.

PARIDARSHAK,
February 27th, 1881.

The *Paridarshak*, of the 27th February, expresses views on the subject of the Secret Russian correspondence found at Cabul, similar to those noticed in paragraphs 3 and 4 of our last Report. We quote the following passage from the article, which contains the gist of the Editor's observations:—"After a perusal of the whole correspondence, we have not found any ground for entertaining a fear of Russia. A Russian invasion of India appears as much an impossibility now as it ever did before; nay, these papers furnish us with an additional argument in support of our views. Notwithstanding the opinions of bigoted Conservatives, and of narrow-sighted journals afflicted with Russophobia, we firmly believe that Russia does not cherish the insane desire of undertaking an invasion of this country. What the correspondence now published really shows is, that the mean-minded and envious Russian statesmen are trying to vex England, because they feel that it is simply impossible for them to successfully attempt an invasion of India, or the task of entirely subjugating it."

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
February 28th, 1881.

2. The following observations are extracted from a long article in the *Navavibhakar*, of the 28th February, on the Candahar question:—Although the people of India have suffered much from the Afghan policy of Lord Lytton, not a few military officers have derived immense benefit from it. Among these again, General Roberts has been the greatest gainer. He has now become an idol of the British nation. It is not for us to express any opinion as to whether a nation which has produced such heroes as the Duke of Wellington and the Duke of Marlborough really adds to its glory when it thus extols men like Sir Frederick Roberts; but this much we may say, that the honours paid to this General, who only succeeded in defeating some savage Afghans, might lead the Russians to think that the British do not now possess such warriors as they once had, otherwise they would not have paid such ovation to a soldier who had fled from Cabul through fear of Mahomed Jan; still it would not occasion much surprise if only they contented themselves with honouring General Roberts as a warrior, but they have gone further, and have come to look upon him as a politician. The *Pioneer* has quoted his opinion on the question of retaining Candahar as that of competent authority. The Editor then proceeds to dwell upon the improbability of a Russian invasion of India, and to commend the wise resolve of the Cabinet to abandon Candahar. The utterances of Lord Hartington on this subject are marked by great ability. The Editor takes the occasion to point out the necessity of placing the relations existing between the Government of India and the Native States on a more satisfactory footing. Owing to the annexation of the Berars and that of Oudh, the deposition of Mulharrao Guicowar, and the recent salt negotiations, the confidence of Native Chiefs in Government has been greatly shaken, and fear has come upon them.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
February 28th, 1881.

3. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 28th February, contains the following remarks in one of its editorial paragraphs:—If instead of lavishing honours and rewards upon General Roberts, the authorities had punished, at least reproved, him and the other Generals who were engaged in the Afghan War, the act would have enabled Government to earn the esteem of all Asiatics, at any rate of the people of India and of Afghanistan. Natives of this country believe that, in the Afghan War, the British army was not able to show sufficient valour. It is not that any doubt exists as to the superior prowess and skill of the invaders, but that in the late war, though not defeated, the British army has not fought in the manner that was

expected of them; and that for the humiliation which it has repeatedly suffered, the blunders committed by General Roberts and others are responsible. So great was the want of foresight evinced by the army of invasion, that it was fortunate that the Afghans were not very superior soldiers.

4. The following are some of the reasons which, according to the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, have made British rule unpopular with natives of India!—(1) Its extremely despotic character, which has been aggravated since the celebration of the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi in 1877. Famines, harassing taxes, and repressive legislation have during the last four years brought great misery upon the people. (2) Increase of taxation, unaccompanied by any measure for ameliorating their condition. (3) Exclusion of educated natives from all high positions of trust and responsibility. (4) The making of an invidious distinction between Natives and Europeans. (5) Repressive laws, want of representative institutions, the total exclusion of the people from all share in the administration of the finances, and the estrangement of feeling between Government and Native Princes.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 1st, 1881.

5. The *Som Prakash*, of the 8th March, regrets to notice that the liberal British Government, which has ever proved the stoutest champion of liberty, should now be engaged in the task of depriving a brave people of their independence. Under Lord Beaconsfield's administration an attempt was made to take away the independence of Afghanistan. Fortunately the return of the Liberals to power averted that result. A similar attempt is being now made to destroy the liberty of the Boers. This is not certainly a proceeding which will enhance the glory of the British nation. Let the prestige of the nation which has suffered from the recent defeat at the hands of the Boers be retrieved, and when that result is accomplished, let them be restored to their liberty.

SOM PRAKASH,
March 8th, 1881.

6. In a long article, the same paper maintains that England should in justice pay the costs of the Afghan War. The safety of India was never menaced by Russia, and India cannot be held liable for the cost of the war which Lord Lytton declared against Afghanistan without any justification.

SOM PRAKASH.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

7. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Paridarshak* of the 27th February:—We have long shared the belief that, instead of seeking to check the growth of intemperance, the Excise Department has given an impetus to it. The operations of the department during the last few years have strengthened this belief. The outstill system is ruining this country; since its introduction, the liquor which formerly used to sell at a seer the rupee, has been made available at one-fourth of that sum. The following incident will show the injury that has accrued from the measure. It is now about two years since the serious distress arising from high prices occurred in East Bengal. At that time a poor peasant one day went to purchase rice with only three annas in his pocket. His hungry wife and children were fasting, and the latter were crying for food. The spectacle had proved too much for the unfortunate man, who therefore had left his house with all the money he had to buy provisions. But he had not gone far, when the wayside liquor-shop, in all its temptingness, greeted his eyes. He yielded, and soon the money which was to have brought food to his starving family was spent in drink. Now, who was responsible for this occurrence? In every village of Bengal this scene is being enacted. The

PARIDARSHAK,
February 27th, 1881.

temperate Bengali has been converted into a ferocious animal thirsting for liquor. It is, however, some consolation to find that the attention of Government has at length been drawn to the evils of the outstill system, as is evidenced by the instructions issued by the Board, to the effect that the opening of new outstills should be discouraged.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,
February 28th, 1881.

8. The *Srihatta Prakásh*, of the 28th February, observes that, if the proposal to create a Judicial Commissionership for Sylhet were carried out, there would be no end of miseries brought upon that district. Sylhet, under the Assam Chief Commissionership, is different from what it was under the Government of Bengal; the sun of its prosperity set with the severance of its connection with that Government. The creation of a Judicial Commissionership will but aggravate the miseries of its inhabitants. Considering what strange incidents occur even now, when the office of Judge is distinct from that of Magistrate, one can easily imagine what would greet the eyes of the public if both the offices were held by the same person. A European vested with the powers of both Judge and Magistrate! The very idea is enough to send a thrill of fear through the heart.

SAHACHAR,
February 28th, 1881.

9. The *Sahachar*, of the 28th February, dwells on the importance of criticizing the conduct of public men. Even if such criticisms incidentally referred to the private character of the person criticized—and it is not always easy to preserve a clear distinction between the private and public sides of the characters of administrators—and dwelt more on their faults than on their merits, society would still be a gainer thereby. After these prefatory remarks, the Editor adverts to certain so-called traits in the character of Sir Ashley Eden, such, for instance, as his boundless self-confidence and indifference to public opinion; his love of deciding all questions in conformity with certain preconceived ideas, his favouritism, and his readiness to adapt himself to circumstances, and to the wishes of his official superiors. In short, he is a time-serving man, and cannot, as such, claim a high place among administrators. One cannot place him by the side of Grant or of Campbell. Bengal cannot expect much benefit from such a ruler; on the contrary, has to apprehend much evil from him. He was well qualified to co-operate with Lord Lytton in passing the Vernacular Press Act, but is not able, it would seem, to urge Lord Ripon to remedy the wrong inflicted on this country by Manchester. The period of Sir Ashley Eden's administration is drawing to a close, but his rule has not resulted in any benefit to this country, for which it will be remembered by future generations.

SAHACHAR.

10. We extract the following observations from an editorial paragraph in the same paper:—Besides a Civilian who is at the head of the Calcutta Municipality, there are many high officers employed under it. For fear of losing their pensions, there is always a disinclination noticed on the part of Government officers to have their services transferred to the municipal establishment. Sir Ashley Eden has evidently met with failure in his attempt to revive the old system of Municipal Government in Calcutta, and is therefore trying to secure what he apparently considers the next best thing, namely an increase of the official element in the Corporation; and as this purpose would be easily accomplished if the pensions of officers lent to the Municipality could be charged to its funds, His Honor is putting forth efforts in this direction. At his instance Baboo Kristodas Pal has introduced a Bill in the Bengal Legislative Council, which, among other matters, contains provisions on this subject. It behoves the independent Commissioners to be on their guard.

Pensions of Government officers lent
to the Calcutta Municipality.

11. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 28th February, refers to the discontent of the Sonthals and the recent troubles in connection with the census. The Editor

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
February 28th, 1881.

How to pacify the Sonthals?

does not believe that their discontent was in any way owing to the system of land settlement or to any of the other causes recently described in the newspapers. The true explanation is to be found in the indiscretion, want of foresight, rashness and ignorance which generally characterize the European officers working in their midst. A considerable portion of Sonthalistan is under the sway of Civilians, who are totally unacquainted with the language, manners and the customs of those over whom they are set to rule. Being again full of aristocratic notions and prejudices, these officials are never willing to mix with the Sonthals. The fact is, until the task of governing the Sonthals is entrusted to men like Colonel Dalton, there will be no prospect of reform. That officer was so popular with the savage tribes, that they used to call him "father." It is men like Colonel Dalton that are wanted for Sonthalistan. Unfortunately, with a few exceptions, the majority of public officers in that province are of a different stamp. It is needless to remark that much of the confusion and trouble which took place among the Sonthals in connection with the census was due to the indiscretion of Mr. Cosserat and other officials. If that wild and ignorant people are ever pacified, that result will be brought about by the exertion of men like Colonel Dalton, and by the spread of education.

12. It is remarked by the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 1st March, that although considerable importance is attached by Government to the practice on

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 1st, 1881.

Tours of Magistrates in the mofussil.

the part of Magistrates of annually making a tour through their districts, and any officer who fails to conform therewith is severely censured, still no care seems to be taken to ascertain what is really accomplished on the occasion of such tours. The Magistrate leaves his camp early in the morning for a shooting excursion. Companies of chowkeedars run after him, and do what they are told to do. Over muddy swamps and prickly jungle they must walk. Fatigued, the officer returns to camp and partakes of the food provided for him by the police. He then rests awhile, or takes up his office business. Cases are sometimes heard in camp. No better method perhaps could be devised for harassing a defendant than by ordering his trial when the Magistrate is in camp in the mofussil. The poor man has to dance attendance for days successively, and at different places. In the afternoon the officer is either out for a walk, accompanied by his wife, or grants interviews to landlords. Of course, it is they who must come to him. If he is a patron of learning, he may visit the village school, and while there, ask the number of pupils attending it, the available accommodation in the house, &c. The majority of Magistrates, while on tour, do their work in this fashion. There are of course noble exceptions, but they are few. The reports submitted by them, however, show an extensive acquaintance with the state of the country and its inhabitants, and it is on the strength of such reports that the work of administration is shaped.

13. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 1st March, contains a long article in which reference is made to the addresses presented to Lord Ripon by the different

BHARAT MIHIR,
March 1st, 1881.

Addresses to Lord Ripon.

public bodies in Calcutta, and His Excellency's replies thereto. The observations made by the writer are similar to those noticed in paragraph 17 of our last Report. Towards the conclusion of the article, however, Lord Ripon is asked to ponder well on the condition of the country. The people already groan under taxation; and any additional burden in the shape of an income tax or any other impost will prove unendurable. As the condition of the finances, however, is extremely unsatisfactory, it is necessary to effect a reduction of public expenditure.

TRIPURA VARTAVANA,
March 5th, 1881.

The same subject.

14. On the same subject, the *Tripurá Vartávaha*, of the 5th March, makes similar observations.

SADHARANI,
March 6th, 1881.

15. The *Sádháraní*, of the 6th March, disapproves of the practice of frequently transferring magisterial officers from one district to another. At the present

Frequent transfers of Magistrates.
time, the magistrate of a district possesses so much power for good or evil, that the weal and woe of the inhabitants depend in a large measure on the character, disposition, and the knowledge of the people which he can bring to the performance of his work. It is only a knowledge of those whom he is to govern, and a desire to do them good, that can make a successful administrator. Frequent changes in the *personnel* of district government however, makes it impossible for an officer to acquire a local knowledge, and the district also suffers by reason of such frequent changes. Of course, the routine work goes on quite smoothly, but no work of any permanent importance is undertaken. The writer then instances the case of the Hooghly district, which has, during the last two years and a half, witnessed no less than ten times a change of magistrate. The excavation of the Jujooti canal, a most important measure for this district, was determined upon solely owing to the efforts of Mr. Pellew. Since his time, however, Government has made a sport of Hooghly. The writer strongly protests against these frequent transfers, and asks Government to confirm Mr. Cornish in his present post.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SADHARANI.

16. We have this week received the first number of a new weekly paper in Bengali published in Calcutta. It is entitled the *Bhárat Bandhu*, or the Friend of India. We shall notice the contents in our next Report.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 12th March 1881.